

Claim 1 (currently amended) Detergent composition, capable of exhibiting enhanced bleachable stain removal in the ~~substantial~~ absence of oxygen bleaches, containing surface-active agents, builders, conventional additives and optional components, characterized in that the composition comprises:

I: of from 0.1% to 5% by weight of a fructan component selected from the group of:

(a) carboxyalkylinulin, wherein the alkyl moiety contains from 1 to 4 carbon atoms;

(b) dicarboxylinulin having a degree of oxydation from 10% to 100%, expressed as a molar percentage of monosaccharide units converted into the corresponding analogues;

(c) 6-carboxylinulin; and

(d) Fructan polycarboxylic acid, having a degree of oxidative substitution of from 0.2 to 2.0 and a degree of carboxyalkylation or carboxyacylation of from 0.2 to 3.0; and

II: of from 0.1% to 5% by weight of a phosphonate selected from the group of:

(i) $(R_2)_a - N - (R_1 - PO_3H_2)_{n-a}$;

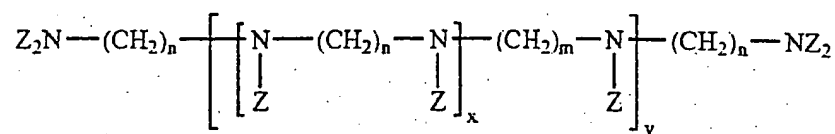
wherein R_1 is an alkylene group having from 1 to 4 carbon atoms, R_2 is an alkylene group having from 1 to 8 carbon atoms, a is 0, or 2 and n is 1, 2 or 3;

(ii) phosphonobutane tricarboxylic acid;

- (iii) An alkylene polyphosphonate wherein the alkylene chain contains from 2 to 6 carbon atoms and the component contains at least two phosphonate groups;
- (iv) an alkylene polyamino polyphosphonate; and
- (v) a mixture of such phosphonates.

Claim 2 (currently amended) The composition in accordance with claim 1 wherein the weight ratio of components I to II is in the range of from 20:1 to 1:6 ~~preferably of from 10:1 to 1:4, more preferably of from 8:1 to 1:1.~~

Claim 3 (currently amended) The composition in accordance with claim 1 wherein the alkylene polyamino polyphosphonate is represented by the following formula:



wherein

Z is $-\text{CHR}^1\text{PO}_3\text{R}_2$

R is H, CH_3 , C_2H_5 , or M;

M is a metal ion or ammonium;

R^1 is H_3 , or CH_2COOH ;

n is 1-6, ~~preferably 2-4;~~

m is 2-6, ~~preferably 2-4;~~

x is 0-6, ~~preferably 0-3;~~

y is 0-6, ~~preferably 0-1.~~

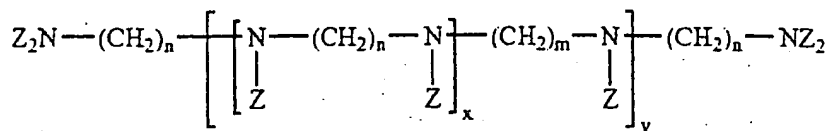
Claim 4 (currently amended) The composition in accordance with ~~claims 1 and 3~~ claim 1 wherein the polyphosphonate is selected from the group of ethylenediamino tetramethylenephosphonate; diethylene triamino pentamethylenephosphonate; dihexyleneethylene tetraamino hexamethylenephosphonate; bishexamethylene triaminopentamethylene phosphonate; phosphonobutane tricarboxylic acid; and amino trismethylenephosphonic acid.

Claim 5 (original) The composition in accordance with claim 1 wherein the fructan component is selected from carboxyalkylinulin having 1 or 2 carbon atoms in the alkyl moiety and having a degree of substitution of from 1.5 to 2.8 and dicarboxylinulin having a degree of oxidation (DO) of from 20% to 90%.

Claim 6 (currently amended) The composition in accordance with ~~claims 1 and 5~~ claim 1 wherein the fructan component is present in a level of from 0.1 to 2.0% by weight and the polyphosphonate is present in 0.1 to 2.0% by weight.

Claim 7 (new) The composition in accordance with claim 1 wherein the weight ratio of components I and II is in the range of from 8:1 to 1:1.

Claim 8 (new) the composition in accordance with claim 1 wherein the alkylene polyamino polyphosphonate is represented by the following formula:



wherein

Z is $-\text{CHR}^1\text{PO}_3\text{R}_2$

R is H, CH_3 , C_2H_5 , or M;

M is a metal ion or ammonium;

R^1 is H_3 , or CH_2COOH ;

n is 2-4;

m is 2-4;

x is 2-4;

y is 2-4.